

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, 12-16 and 18-27, as amended, are present in this application. The amendment to Claims 1, 15 and 16 is presented to make clear, as indicated, for example, at page 2, line 1, that the compositions of this invention are useful for providing both tack-free surfaces and low compression set, two key properties not considered by the prior art. The amendment was not previously presented because the cited art was first applied in the July 23<sup>rd</sup> office action. It is believed that this amendment will either result in allowance of the claims or reduce the issues remaining for appeal.

Claims 8-11, drawn to a non-elected invention, are now cancelled.

The rejection of Claims 1, 3-5, 13-16 and 18-20, as amended, under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aoshima et al. is traversed. Aoshima is concerned with good surface cure but not good compression set (good thermal stability). Achievement of good compression set was one of the driving forces for applicant to switch from a sulfur cure to a peroxide cure. Thus, Aoshima teaches certain optional crosslinking coagents and essential "anti-tackiness" additives (preferably imidazoles and thionureas). The coagents listed by Aoshima are thus not essential to the practice of their invention, while applicant's bismaleimide coagent is essential to the practice of his invention. Some of the optional coagents listed by Aoshima, such as triallyl cyanurate, produce poor surface tackiness. Aoshima also teaches that sulfur (elemental sulfur) is one of his optional crosslinking agents, whereas applicant teaches that elemental sulfur should be avoided due to poor compression set. Withdrawal of this rejection is accordingly submitted to be in order.

It is noted that Claims 12 and 21-25 are allowable. Since Claim 1 as amended is shown above to be allowable, it is submitted that withdrawal of the objection to these Claims is also in order. It is also noted that Claims 26 and 27 are allowed.

The other art which was cited, but not applied, also fails to teach or suggest applicant's invention.

Entry of the foregoing amendment, and action on and allowance of Claims 1, 3-5, 12-16 and 18-27 at an early date are now respectfully requested.

No claims fee accompanies this amendment since no increase has been made in the number of total or independent claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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